



Padre Island National Seashore SandDollar



Friday, July 30, 2004

Superintendent

Colin's schedule:

Monday, 8/02 – In the Park
Tuesday, 8/03 – In the Park, Squad
Wed., 8/04 – In the Park
Thurs., 8/05 – In the Park
Friday, 8/06 – In the Park

Safety Notes--

Your contributions are greatly appreciated for the SandDollar and the safety bulletin board. Please send safety contributions to Pat.

Let's continue to encourage each other to be safe.
Make it a safe day.

Employees Association News -

Administration

Ruby has two 5 drawer filing cabinets. One is legal size and locks with a key. It will need some work to make the lock work, but this should be no problem with a little elbow grease. The other cabinet is letter size and does not lock. Both cabinets are the old green gun metal color and are in great condition. First come first served!

The Supervisory Park Ranger (Protection), GS-0025-11/12, has closed.

FEGLI Open Season Begins in September

Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced that open season for the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program (FEGLI) will be from September 1 through September 30, 2004. The program consists of basic life insurance coverage and three options that include coverage for up to five times an employee's base salary plus coverage for family members. In most cases, a new federal employee is automatically covered by basic life insurance. The types and amounts of coverage available are not changing. During the open season, federal and postal employees will be able to enroll in the program or increase or change current coverage without having a physical or answering any questions about their health.

Changes Are Coming to the TSP Loan Program

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) has announced that effective July 1, 2004; three changes will be made to the TSP loan program. They are: (1) A \$50 fee will be deducted from the amount of each new loan; (2) Two general purpose loans at the same time will no longer be permitted (however, one can have both a general purpose and a residential loan); and (3) Upon paying off a TSP loan, the TSP participant will not be eligible to apply for another loan of the same type for 60 days.

UNIFORMS

Within the next 2 1/2 weeks, Cargo Pants and Convertible trousers will appear on the uniform website. Employees will be able to order these items, but they will not be physically in stock with VF Solutions. It may take about 2 months before employees will be able to receive these items. We are putting them on the website now so they can order them before the ordering period ends on August 21st. I would not recommend that seasonals order these items yet. They are not in stock. It will take at least 2 months before these items will be shipped out to employees.

UPCOMING TEL EVENTS:

Emerging Leaders Consortium Module 300: Congressional Actions and the NPS ---to receive credit, attendance on both days is required	06/28/2004	Monday	1:00-4:00
Emerging Leaders Consortium Module 300: Congressional Actions and the NPS ---to receive credit, attendance on both days is required	06/29/2004	Tuesday	1:00-4:00
Gateway Communities: Keys to Success	07/08/2004	Thursday	12:30-3:30
Working With NPS Agreements for Partnerships (Module 1): Tools for Effective Partnering	07/14/2004	Wednesday	12:00-4:00
Working With NPS Agreements for Partnerships (Module 2): Developing and Managing Agreements for Partnerships	07/15/2004	Thursday	12:00-4:00
NPS Recreation and Preservation Programs	07/19/2004	Monday	1:30-3:30
Resolving Performance Issues	08/10/2004	Tuesday	2:00-2:00
Dealing with Misconduct	08/10/2004	Tuesday	10:00-12:00
Retirement Planning for New Employees	08/26/2004	Thursday	2:00-4:00
Communication: The Key to Performance Management	09/09/2004	Thursday	2:00-4:00
From Hugger to Harasser: The True Story Behind Sexual Harassment	09/09/2004	Thursday	10:00-12:00
NPS Recreation and Preservation Programs	09/13/2004	Monday	2:00-4:00
Position Descriptions: What Every Supervisor Should Know	09/21/2004	Tuesday	2:00-4:00
Managing Performance	09/21/2004	Tuesday	10:00-12:00
Administrative Grievances: What You Do Not Know Could Hurt You	09/23/2004	Thursday	2:00 -4:30
IDP Interpretive Media Development (Module 311)	09/28/2004	Tuesday	12:00-4:00
Working With NPS Agreements for Partnerships (Module 2): Developing and Managing Agreements for Partnerships	11/03/2004	Wednesday	12:00-4:00
Working With NPS Agreements for Partnerships (Module 2): Developing and Managing Agreements for Partnerships	11/04/2004	Thursday	12:00-4:00

The trailer will be used on August 10 for TEL training.

New Courses:

August 25th NPSafe Overview for NPS Leadership: Everyone Can Make a Difference!

September 2nd Building a Partnership Workplace

The below course has been postponed:

DOI Ethics - Financial Disclosure - was scheduled for July 29th - has been rescheduled to September 8th.

Last Day to Order Uniforms is August 21!

Facility Management

The new fuel system is being installed. If you need fuel, there are 3 (55) gallon drums by the oil room and 10 (5) gallon containers in the oil room. There is a hand pump on one of the 55-gallon drums. All vehicles have already been filled. Glenda will let us know when the new system is running.

Interpretation

Recently a group called "Team Onion" went through the General Land Office to adopt (for cleaning) the area from mile marker 59 to the Channel. Over the weekend of July 23-25, Team Onion and friends (a total of about 16) picked up approximately 290 bags of trash from their mile. Unfortunately, they did not have the trailer space to bring all the trash back and left about 30 bags piled up at the channel. If anyone is going to the Channel, please bring back as many bags as you can.

Phil has two brand-new, never worn, long-sleeve dress shirts to get rid of because the collar is too tight. These are a couple of years old and therefore he cannot return them. If anyone would like them, please contact Phil at the Visitor Center if you're interested.

Protection

The ranger division will be involved in a law enforcement program review Aug 3-5. Three team members from outside the park will audit our program based on a standard regional evaluation process. Division Chiefs and ranger staff will be interviewed as part of the evaluation.

If you thought based on your observations that visitation is up this year you're right! Visitation through June is 333,478 which is up from 289,386, a 15% increase!!

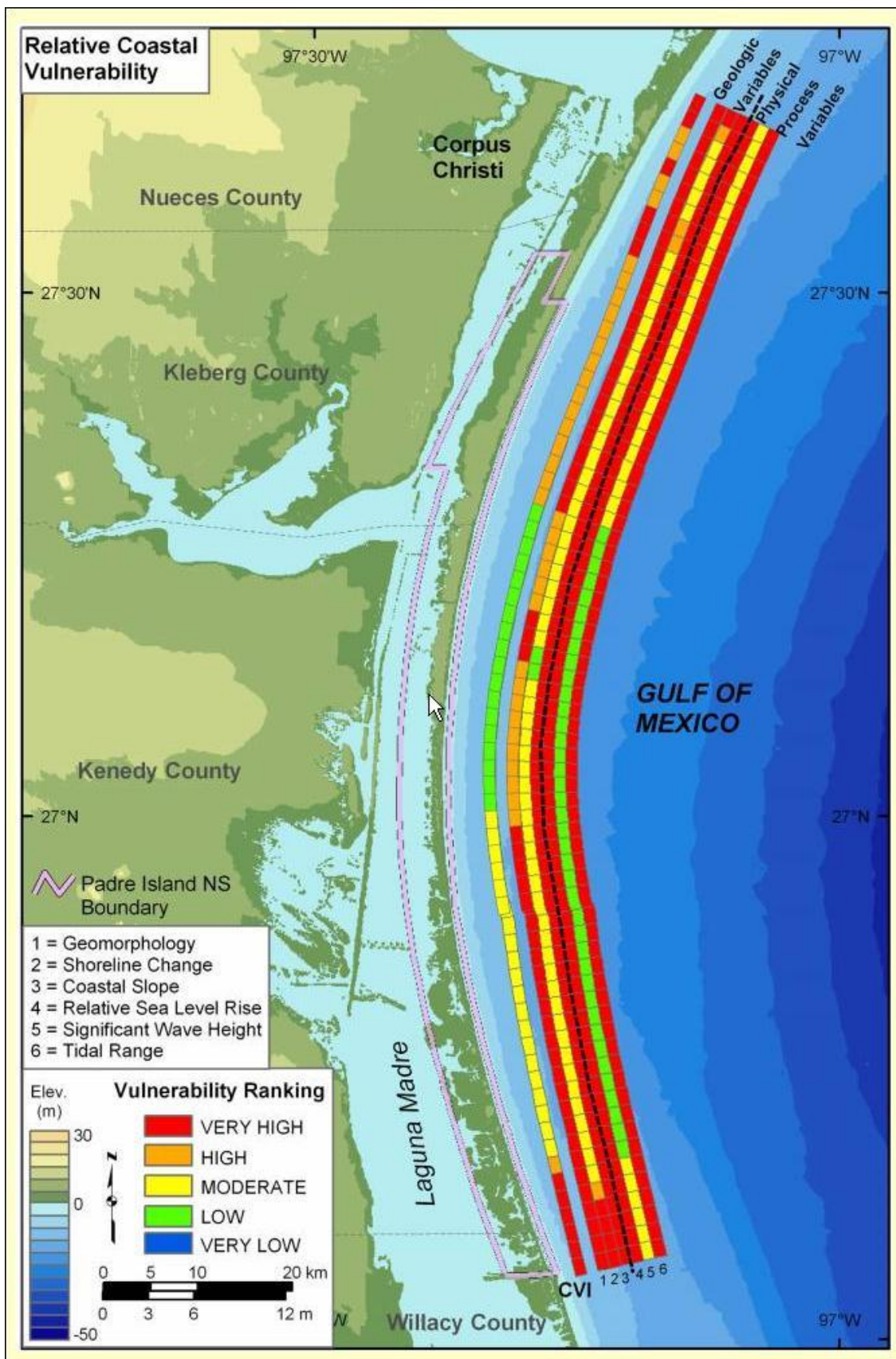
Resources Management

Projects:

- We are currently completing compliance and issuing permits for several projects within the park. Sunny Beaches and the Ocean Conservancy have requested a permit to collect marine debris from two 500 meter sections, one on closed beach and one at the 5 MM. The data collected will be entered into a national database for marine debris monitoring. Other projects include an ozone

monitoring system to be installed at the old view tower and the construction of the new turtle lab.

- Steve Liptay, National Audubon Society, has completed the Snowy and Wilson Plover Nesting Survey. Steve located and documented 80 Snowy Plover and 230 Wilson Plover nests. The park has never had a comprehensive survey of these species until this year. Thanks Steve!!
- The NPS and USGS have submitted a report titled “Coastal Vulnerability Assessment of Padre Island National Seashore to Sea-Level Rise.” A coastal vulnerability index (CVI) was used to map the relative vulnerability of the coast to future sea-level rise within PAIS. The CVI ranks the following in terms of their physical contribution to sea-level rise-related coastal change: geomorphology, regional coastal slope, rate of relative sea-level rise, shoreline change rates, mean tidal range and mean significant wave height. The CVI highlights those regions where the physical effects of sea-level rise might be the greatest. The areas within PAIS that are likely to be most vulnerable to sea-level are those with the highest occurrence of overwash and the highest rates of shoreline change. Most of the park is considered at moderate to high risk of sea level rise, but the area between Yarrowborough Pass and the south end of Big Shell are at a relatively low risk. See map below.



Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery

Workers cleaning the beach found a Kemp's ridley nest hatching in the dunes on Mustang Island and reported it to Tony Amos. Tony and I investigated the site. Based on a count of eggshells retrieved from the nest, 39 hatchlings emerged and reached the sand surface. The nest also contained two unhatched eggs (one of which had been mostly consumed by fire ants). Two hatchlings were killed by passing vehicles prior to the beach workers finding the nest and stopping traffic. Beach workers observed 33 hatchlings successfully enter the surf. Based on the eggshell count, an estimated four additional hatchlings emerged from the nest (although we cannot be certain if they were predated or successfully entered the surf prior to the arrival of the beach workers).

Thus, so far this year, 42 Kemp's ridley nests have been discovered on Texas beaches including two on Bolivar Peninsula, two on Galveston Island, one near Surfside in Brazoria County, three on Mustang Island, three on North Padre Island north of Padre Island National Seashore, 22 at Padre Island National Seashore, five on South Padre Island, and four on Boca Chica Beach. One loggerhead nest and one green turtle nest have also been found on the Texas coast, both one at Padre Island National Seashore.

Nests 30-36 released and Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony held

At 7:00 pm on Friday July 23, we released 349 Kemp's ridley hatchlings. This was the largest number of Kemp's ridley hatchlings born from eggs laid in the U.S. that were released at one time since recovery efforts began 26 years ago. We dedicated this record setting release to our amazing 140 volunteers that participated in the sea turtle project at the park this year. The release was held in front of Malaquite and was attended by about 500 people. This also set a record for attendance at a hatchling release. Television stations 3, 6, and 10 came to get footage. Additionally, the Corpus Christi Caller Times sent a photographer and published a beautiful photo of a group of hatchlings on the front page of the Saturday newspaper. One of our volunteers notified us that CNN reported the release on it's ticker Monday. Thank you so very much to Colin, Ruby, Buzz, Phil, Pat, Jason, Lucia, and everyone else that helped before, during, and after this amazing release and Volunteer Appreciation

Ceremony. This was a big event and we could not have done it without all of your help!

Here are the release statistics for nests 30-36. Please note that the release held on Friday July 23 was the only public release for these nests and the remaining were released by staff.

Nest 30 - released 43 hatchlings from 57 eggs; all released at 8:45 pm on July 24

Nest 31 - released 71 hatchlings from 77 eggs; all released at 7:00 pm on July 23

Nest 32 - released 115 hatchlings from 115 eggs; 111 released at 7:00 pm on July 23 and 4 at 7:00 am on July 24

Nest 33 - released 88 hatchlings from 89 eggs; all released at 7:00 pm on July 23

Nest 34 - released 79 hatchlings from 90 eggs; all released at 7:00 pm on July 23

Nest 35 - released 85 hatchlings from 89 eggs; all released at 2:45 am on July 24

Nest 36 - released 70 hatchlings from 77 eggs; 66 released at 7:45 pm on July 27, 3 released at 6:45 am on July 28, and 1 released at 6:45 am on July 29

Few nests remain in the incubation facility. Hence there are few additional chances for public releases this year. In fact, the release on July 23 may have been our last public release for the year since two of the five remaining nests are from other sea turtle species that are typically released at night when we do not have public releases and it is becoming increasingly difficult to predict release dates and times due to the small number of remaining nests.

**PREDICTED HATCHLING RELEASE DATES FOR NESTS BEING HELD AT
THE
PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE INCUBATION FACILITY**

Nest # (Species)	Date Found	Hatchlings will Likely be Released Sometime Between these Dates
38 (Loggerhead)	June 13	August 1-6
40 (Kemp's ridley)	June 16	August 1-7
41 (Kemp's ridley)	June 21	August 6-12
42 (Kemp's ridley)	June 22	August 7-13
43 (Green)	July 1	August 20-25

Biological Technician, Linda Morehead's father passed away Tuesday, July 27. There will be a memorial service on Saturday, July 31, 2004 at 10:00 at the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, located at 700 S. Broadway, Corpus Christi, TX, 882-1735.

